

SAFETY BULLETIN

SB01-005 Safety Bulletin

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AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS

With holiday traffic looming on the horizon, it pays to take care. Common courtesy on the road yields uncommon dividends in accidents avoided and injuries and deaths prevented.

One of the biggest hazards on our roads is the growing number of discourteous drivers. These drivers tailgate, pass improperly, cut off other motorists, honk their horns unnecessarily, weave through traffic, flash their lights to get others out of their way, and sometimes respond inappropriately to any perceived affront. Some drivers lose control. Insignificant incidents such as parking space disputes, fender benders, obscene gestures, loud music, overuse of the horn or failure to use a turn signal, can lead to violent encounters.

To be a more courteous driver, the experts recommend:

- Use the passing lane only when passing.
- Signal before switching lanes.
- Allow plenty of space between your car and the car in front of you; don't tailgate.
- If you drive slowly, stay to the right.
- Don't let your cell phone distract you from driving.
- Don't take more than one parking space.
- Be careful when you get out of your car so that your door doesn't strike the car parked next to you.

To avoid becoming the victim of an aggressive driver:

- Never underestimate the other driver's capacity for mayhem.
 - Avoid eye contact with trouble-making motorists.
 - Don't challenge hostile drivers or react in any way. Instead, make every attempt to get away from them.
 - Get the license plate number of aggressive drivers and report them to police.
 - Don't return gestures.
 - Keep your distance from those who are driving erratically.
- When followed by an aggressive driver, always go to a public place, lock the doors and stay in your vehicle.
- Keep your cool.

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